

a.) Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-3 (Cancelled).

4. (Previously Presented) An isolated or purified protein comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1.

5. (Previously Presented) An isolated or purified protein comprising an amino acid sequence in which at most 20 amino acids are deleted, replaced or added in the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1, said protein having a β 1,3-galactosyltransferase activity.

Claims 6-13 (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a protein according to claims 4 or 5, comprising:

culturing a transformant harboring a recombinant DNA encoding said protein in a medium to produce and accumulate said protein in culture, and recovering the protein from the culture.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a galactose-containing carbohydrate, comprising:

selecting, as an enzyme source, a culture of the transformant harboring a recombinant DNA encoding a protein according to ~~of claim 14 or~~ claim 4 or 5 or a treated product of the culture, said culture or treated product of the culture containing said protein,

allowing the enzyme source, uridine-5'-diphosphogalactose and an acceptor carbohydrate which has *N*-acetylglucosamine at its non-reducing end terminal to be present in an aqueous medium to produce and accumulate the galactose-containing carbohydrate in the aqueous medium, and

recovering the galactose-containing carbohydrate from the aqueous medium.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein the treated product of the culture ~~broth~~ is selected from the group consisting of a concentrated product of the culture ~~broth~~, a dried product of the culture ~~broth~~, cells obtained by centrifuging the culture ~~broth~~, a dried product of the cells, a freeze-dried product of the cells, a surfactant-treated product of the cells, an ultrasonic-treated product of the cells, a mechanically disrupted product of the cells, a solvent-treated product of the cells, an enzyme-treated product of the cells, a protein fraction of the cells, an immobilized product of the cells and an enzyme preparation obtained by extracting ~~from~~ the cells.

Claim 17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein the ~~receptor~~ acceptor carbohydrate is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ *N*-acetylglucosamine ~~and~~ or lacto-*N*-triose II.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein the galactose-containing carbohydrate is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ lacto-*N*-biose ~~and~~ or lacto-*N*-tetraose.

Claims 20-24 (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein said recombinant DNA comprises a vector.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein said transformant is a microorganism.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein said microorganism belongs to the genus *Escherichia*.

28. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~claim 22~~ claim 27, wherein said microorganism is *Escherichia coli*.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein said recombinant DNA comprises a vector.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 29, wherein said transformant is a microorganism.

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein said microorganism belongs to the genus *Escherichia*.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein said microorganism is *Escherichia coli*.